

with new facilities that offer more current technologies and student-centered spaces.

Mr. Speaker, today, more than ever, students are seeking advanced degrees, and the most successful institutions have leadership that is focused on success of their students. As President of Adrian College, Dr. Caine has been committed to that goal. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Caine's commitment and wish him all the best on his retirement.

FREEDOM FOR OMAR PERNET  
HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Omar Pernet Hernández a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Pernet Hernández is the leader of the National Movement for Human Rights. As a peaceful advocate for freedom, democracy and human rights, he has been a constant target of the totalitarian tyranny.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Pernet Hernández was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Despite being confined in the abhorrent, subhuman conditions of the gulag, Mr. Pernet Hernández continues to advocate for human rights for all Cubans, including participating in a hunger strike to demand the humane treatment of political prisoners. According to Amnesty International, he is suffering from lung problems, a chronic gastric ulcer, and high blood pressure. Let us be very clear, Mr. Pernet Hernández is languishing in the gulag because of his belief in human rights.

According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004:

Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening, and conditions in detention facilities also were harsh . . . Police and prison officials beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views. Political prisoners in particular often were held at facilities hundreds of miles from their families, placing an undue hardship on many families' time and financial resources.

Mr. Pernet Hernández is representative of the Cuban people's desire for liberty; despite constant harassment, despite incarceration in a grotesque gulag, he continues to fight for the inalienable human rights of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian dungeons are full of men and women, like Mr. Pernet Hernández, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is totally unacceptable that brave men and women are locked in dungeons because they believe in freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Omar Pernet Hernández and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMEMORATING MEMORIAL DAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this weekend should serve as a time for all Americans to reflect on the great sacrifices of those who have defended our great nation and to honor the men and women who continue to protect us.

As we celebrate this Memorial Day, the thoughts and prayers of our entire country are with our troops and the families who have lost loved ones. Throughout our history, brave men and women have answered the call to duty, and their courage and dedication to protecting our democracy is an inspiration to us all. We are the beneficiaries of their bravery, and we must also be the protectors of their legacy. That is why I am proud to join many of my colleagues in cosponsoring the comprehensive New GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century.

These benefits for active duty service members, veterans, and military retirees would ensure that we fulfill our obligation to our men and women in uniform. At a time when our nation is asking more men and women to risk their lives and security on behalf of our country, we should make every effort to fulfill our promise to them upon their return.

The strength of our nation should not be measured only by our military or diplomatic might, but also by the compassion and dedication we show to those who defend us. Freedom is not free, and we honor those who have paid a price for the liberties we enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to our nations' fallen heroes and honoring those who have made sacrifices in defense of the United States.

AMERICA'S NURSE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention "America's Nurse," an op-ed highlighting the importance of nurses in our country that was published in the New York Times written by Teri Mills, a constituent of mine.

[From the New York Times, May 20, 2005]

AMERICA'S NURSE

(By Teri Mills)

So, national nurses' week has come and gone and what happened? Nothing, despite estimates that by 2020 there will be 400,000 fewer nurses than are needed in this country. Drastic action is required. And here's the action I suggest: dethrone the surgeon general and appoint a National Nurse.

Here's why. Prevention is the best way to lower health care costs. If people take care of themselves and don't get sick . . . well, you know the rest. And who better to educate Americans on how to take better care of themselves than nurses?

After all, nurses are considered the most honest and ethical professionals, according to a recent Gallup poll. It's the nurse whom the patient trusts to explain the treatment ordered by a doctor. It is the nurse who

teaches new parents how to care for their newborn. It is the nurse who explains to the family how to comfort a dying loved one.

Meanwhile, the surgeon general, the nation's head doctor, is all but invisible. If you went to a supermarket and asked 10 people the surgeon general's name or to describe his or her role, it's unlikely that you would find anyone who could. (It's Richard H. Carmona, by the way.)

Now, I'm not saying that a National Nurse will become a household name immediately. But given all that's at stake—the health of a nation—and given the surgeon general's inability to connect with Americans, it seems to me that we should at least give nurses a try.

Here's what I'd have the National Nurse do. She or he would highlight health care education through 15-minute weekly broadcasts that would also be available on the Internet. The emphasis would be on prevention: how to have a healthy heart; how to raise your teenagers without going crazy; how to avoid being swept into the growing tide of obesity.

The Office of the National Nurse would yield benefits in a multitude of ways. The informational programs would decrease dependence on a health care system that is not only expensive but at times inaccessible, especially for those who lack insurance or live in rural areas. Through the office, nurses could sign up for a National Nurse Corps that would organize activities to enhance health in their communities. A National Nurse would give public recognition to the valuable work that nurses perform each day; if we're lucky, the National Nurse would help stem the nursing shortage by attracting people to the profession.

A National Nurse won't solve all of our country's health care problems, but one would definitely improve the situation. America has a history of honoring great nurses—from Clara Barton to Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail. Isn't it time we did so again?

WELCOMING NATIONAL RECORD-  
ING ARTIST RON ELLINGTON  
SHY AND HONORING HIS ACTIV-  
ISM ON BEHALF OF STARS FOR  
PEACE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and welcome Ron Ellington Shy, the musician and actor, back home to Cleveland. Ron will be at the Joseph Gallagher Middle School in Ohio's 10th Congressional District on May 27, 2005, to participate in the "Stars for Peace" rally for peace and violence prevention.

A musician, actor, and dynamic entertainer with incredible vocal ability, Ron Ellington Shy was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a former member of such legendary groups as "The Coasters," "The Drifters," and "Don & Dewey."

Ron was born and raised in Cleveland. He moved to California where he attended Fullerton Junior College and continued his education at the University of Southern California, majoring in psychology and minoring in music. His early career included playing professional football and achieving many accolades for his athletic abilities. He was a Golden Gloves boxing champion and holds a black belt in Karate.